

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (original): A method for examining an electronic representation of an item for a watermark, the method comprising:

examining at least a first electronic representation of an item for a watermark in accordance with a first watermark definition;

receiving a signal indicating that a second watermark definition is to be used for examining electronic representations; and

examining at least a second electronic representation of an item for a watermark in accordance with the second watermark definition.

Claim 2 (original): A method according to claim 1 and also comprising:

controlling access to at least the second electronic representation based, at least in part, on a result of the examining at least a second electronic representation step.

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Claim 3 (original): A method according to claim 1 and wherein the first electronic representation and the second electronic representation are identical.

Claim 4 (original): A method according to claim 1 and wherein the signal comprises a representation of the second watermark definition.

Claim 5 (original): A method according to claim 1 and also comprising:

retrieving the second watermark definition from a storage device in response to the received signal.

Claim 6 (original): A method according to claim 1 and also comprising computing the second watermark definition in response to the received signal.

Claim 7 (original): A method according to claim 1 and wherein the first watermark definition and the second watermark definition each comprises an indication of a location, within each electronic representation to be examined, at which a watermark, if present, is to be found.

Claim 8 (original): A method according to claim 1 and wherein the first watermark definition and the second watermark definition each comprises an indication of a watermarking method according to which each electronic representation to be examined is to be examined for a watermark.

Claim 9 (original): A method according to claim 1 and wherein the signal comprises authentication information for establishing that the signal originates from an authentic source, and

the receiving step also includes:

verifying the authentication information to determine whether the authentication information is correct and rejecting the received signal if the authentication information is determined to be incorrect, thereby causing the first watermark definition to continue to be used for examining if the authentication information is incorrect.

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Claim 10 (original): A watermark examiner for examining an electronic representation of an item for a watermark, the examiner comprising:

a watermark definition store operative to store a watermark definition;

watermark examination apparatus operatively associated with the watermark definition store and operative to examine an electronic representation of an item for a watermark in accordance with the watermark definition stored in the watermark definition store; and

a watermark definition signal receiver operative to receive a signal indicating that a new watermark definition is to be used for examining electronic representations and to store the new watermark definition in the watermark definition store.

Claim 11 (original): A watermark examiner according to claim 10 and wherein the watermark definition comprises an indication of a location, within each

electronic representation to be examined, at which a watermark, if present, is to be found.

Claim 12 (original): A watermark examiner according to claim 10 and wherein the watermark definition comprises an indication of a watermarking method according to which each electronic representation to be examined is to be examined for a watermark.

Claim 13 (original): A watermark examiner according to claim 10 and wherein the signal comprises a representation of the second watermark definition.

Claim 14 (original): A watermark examiner according to claim 10 and wherein the watermark examiner also comprises a watermark storage memory for storing at least one watermark definition, and

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the watermark definition signal receiver is operative to retrieve the new watermark definition from the watermark storage memory in response to the received signal.

Claim 15 (original): A watermark examiner according to claim 10 and wherein the watermark definition signal receiver is also operative to compute the second watermark definition in response to the received signal.

Claim 16 (original): A watermark examiner according to claim 10 and wherein the signal comprises authentication information for establishing that the signal originates from an authentic source, and

the watermark definition signal receiver also includes:

signal verification apparatus operative to verify the authentication information to determine whether the authentication information is correct and to reject the received signal if the authentication information is determined to be incorrect, thereby causing the first watermark definition to continue to be used for examining if the authentication information is incorrect.

Claim 17 (original): A method for altering an electronic representation of an item having a watermark, the method comprising:

providing a first electronic representation of an item, the first electronic representation comprising a first watermark, the first watermark corresponding to a first watermark definition;

receiving a signal indicating that a second watermark definition is to be used; and

altering the first electronic representation to comprise a second watermark corresponding to the second watermark definition.

Claim 18 (original): A method according to claim 17 and wherein said altering step comprises:

altering the first electronic representation to no longer comprise the first watermark.

Claim 19 (original): A method according to claim 17 and also comprising:

examining at least a second electronic representation for the second watermark.

Claim 20 (original): A method according to claim 19 and wherein the first electronic representation and the second electronic representation are identical.

Claim 21 (original): A method according to claim 19 and also comprising:

controlling access to at least the second electronic representation based, at least in part, on a result of the examining at least a second electronic representation step.

Claim 22 (original): A watermark alteration system for altering an electronic representation of an item having a watermark, the system comprising:

a watermark definition signal receiver for receiving a signal indicating that a second watermark definition is to be used; and

watermark alteration apparatus for altering a first electronic representation, the first electronic representation comprising a first watermark corresponding to a first watermark definition, to comprise a second watermark corresponding to the second watermark definition.

Claim 23 (original): A system according to claim 22 and wherein said altering comprises:

altering the first electronic representation to no longer comprise the first watermark.

Claim 24 (original): A system according to claim 22 and also comprising:

watermark examining apparatus for examining at least a second electronic representation for the second watermark.

Claim 25 (original): A system according to claim 24 and wherein the first electronic representation and the second electronic representation are identical.

Claim 26 (original): A system according to claim 24 and wherein the watermark examining apparatus is also operative to control access to at least the second electronic representation based, at least in part, on a result of the examining of the at least a second electronic representation.

Claim 27 (original): A signal for indicating to a watermark examiner that a second watermark definition is to be used in place of a first watermark definition for examining electronic representations, the signal comprising:

a representation of a second watermark definition.

Claim 28 (original): A signal according to claim 27 and also comprising:

authentication information for establishing that the signal originates from an authentic source.

Claim 29 (new): A method according to claim 1 and wherein the examining at least a second electronic representation comprises examining in accordance with the second watermark definition and not examining in accordance with the first watermark definition.

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Claim 30 (new): A watermark examiner according to claim 10 and wherein, after the watermark definition signal receiver stores the new watermark definition in the watermark definition store, the watermark examination apparatus examines in accordance with the new watermark definition and not in accordance with a watermark definition previously stored in the watermark definition store.
